SOLDIERS of the NAPOLEONIC WARS

By BRYAN FOSTEN

British Foot Guards At Waterloo June 1815

(3) Headdress, badges and equipment

First Regiment of Foot Guards, Drummer in Service Dress, 1815, wearing the campaign cover over the shako and the reversed facing jacket worn by all Foot Guards musicians. Note crest on the drum shell and musicians' pattern sword.

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Grenadiers of the Foot Guards in state dress, 1812. From left to right the men are from the 2nd Foot Guards, 1st Foot Guards, and 3rd Foot Guards. This is from a contemporary Hamilton-Smith print and shows the bearskin cap. Note the picker and brush on the bayonet belt of the centre grenadier (National Army Museum).

Part 3: Clothing, Head-dress and equipment

Certain items of clothing were either common to both officers and men or were non-standard in nature. For instance officers often provided themselves with topcoats from private sources, or wore civilian garments with their uniform. This section covers this aspect of the history of Foot Guards regiments' uniform history in 1815 and also describes such accessories as personal equipment and shoulder belt insignia, plus the uniform of bandsmen and pioneers which differed considerably from the issue to the rest of the officers and men.

Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards; sergeant major in service dress wearing the standard issue grey overcoat.

Overcoats

In 1802 the officers of the Foot Guards were wearing dark blue, double breasted overcoats with two rows of gilt regimental buttons and a standing/falling collar of scarlet cloth. By 1815 these elegant 'watchcoats' were replaced by heavy quality grey double breasted overcoats with a small cape to cover the shoulders. A tailor's description of a coat for an officer of the 3rd Foot Guards mentions that the buttons were to be in threes which means that for the 1st Regiment it can be inferred that the buttons were at regular intervals and for the Coldstreams in pairs. The new pattern overcoat had a stand up collar and very deep round cuffs. The backs were gathered into pleats at the waist and had two buttons one above the other on each side of the back slit. The collar was lined with dark blue velvet and the body with white cassimere. If the collar was folded over it would show a shallow dark blue outside face.

In *The Times* for May 25, 1888, there is a letter to the Editor from Sir W. Fraser which states '. . . my father saw many British officers lying dead at Quatre Bras in silk stockings and buckled shoes (Ball Dress). . . .' It is also recorded that Major Percy who returned to London 'post haste' with the captured French Eagles arrived still wearing his full dress coat and silk stockings from 'having attended the ball in Brussels before the battles'. These officers, mostly of the staff or of high rank, would have attempted to cover their expensive and glittering clothes as much as possible and this probably accounts for the various complaints from Prussian and Hanoverian Staff officers that the British staff were dressed in civilian clothes. Blue or grey watch coats and long cloaks or frogged 'redincotes' would have been in evidence. There is a careful Carl Vernet drawing of a young British officer wearing a uniform cap and an ankle length frogged coat. There are several drawings by the French artists showing British officers in 'negligee' wearing the overcoat. The crimson net sash and the sword belt were worn over the coat, the epaulettes and wings under it.

The overcoats of the NCOs and privates are described as 'dark grey woollen stuff, kersey wove, loose made, to come up well above the neck, with a large falling cape to cover the shoulders, and the coat made to reach to the calfs'. The coats were made to last three years. In the case of the Guards the men's coats were made by the regimental tailors and the sergeants coats were manufactured but made without collars and cuffs so that the special facing cloth could be fitted individually.* The overcoats were double breasted and had two rows of six regimental buttons and vertical pockets in the sides of the skirts. Sergeants sashes were worn over the overcoat.

* See under Rank Distinctions.

The cape, usually in dark blue material with a coloured lining (for example, white or scarlet) was often purchased privately by field officers and was worn on campaign. The Duke of Wellington, himself, was wearing this type of garment at Waterloo, as shown in a portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence from which the above details were taken.

The officer's version of the standard grey overcoat is shown below, worn by a captain of 1st Foot Guards in undress. The material was of superior quality to the men's issue, but the style was similar. Dark blue velvet facing would show on the folded down collar.

Left: *The chapeau bras. The cocked hat formed a simple crescent and was made so that it could be folded flat and carried under the arm when attending balls and indoor functions. This type of hat was very much in fashion among the young dandy officers of the period and is shown in several of the contemporary French prints usually with an exaggerated crescent shape and tied up with tapes.*

Typical campaign dress of a Lieutenant General. Note that the loops of gold lace were on both sides of the lapel showing when the coat was buttoned over. The collar was red with a blue patch on each front decorated with a similar gold loop and button. The sash was crimson and the overalls grey-blue with a gold stripe down the outside of each leg and brown leather cuffs around the bottoms of each leg. The officer is wearing a grey caped overcoat, typical of patterns supplied by military tailors and similar in style to the official pattern but varied in detail.

Boots

For officers they do not appear to have been uniform. The French prints show British officers in several styles. Some notes are therefore given of boots of the period.

Top Boot

Also known as the Jockey Boot, this reached to the knee and had wide turn-over tops of a light shade of leather and had loops or tapes on the sides for pulling on. They were usually secured around the knee with a boot garter passed above the knee cap and tied at the rear. Heels were low and square formed. The toes were often pointed.

Hussar Boots

These reached to the top of the calf and rose to a point in front with side slits for pulling on. They often had high heels, crimped insteps and very pointed toes.

Hessians

These were painted canvas boots with a heart shaped top and with a tassel decoration in front. The toes were usually pointed and the heels high.

Half Boots

These reached to just above the ankle and were close fitting with side slits.

Shoes

These were low and had latchets tied over a tongue covering the instep. Heels were broad and low and the toes were rounded. They were almost always worn with gaiters even by civilians. NCOs and privates are described as wearing 'military shoes' which had large nails punched flat but visible in the soles. At this period shoes were generally all made on the same last without a 'left' and 'right'.

Guard's officers are described in one document as, wearing black topped, waxed leather, top boots coming to within 2 inches of the cap of the knee in front and hollowed out behind with a double seam at the back and fixed with a strap around a regimental button on the breeches so as to draw well and to sit close to the leg without wrinkles'. Contemporary artists always draw the boot of the period very fat on the leg and tight on the foot so that the subjects feet appear tiny in relation to the calf size.

Stocks

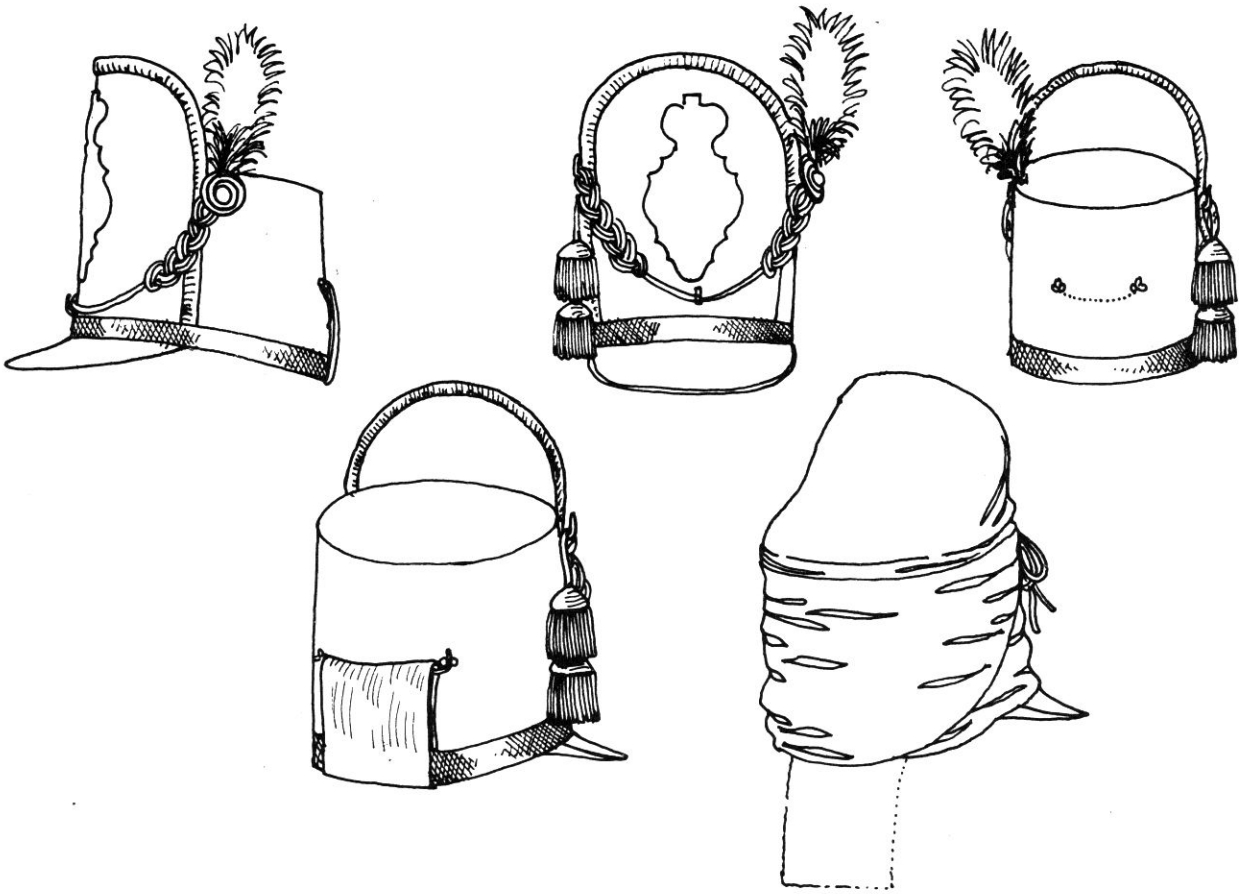
The uniform coats of the period were cut so that the collar stood well off from the neck. Under the coat a black leather stock was worn. This was approximately $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep and was polished. No false collar tabs were allowed to show above the stock and no shirt frill was pulled up to show below it.

The officers seem to have worn the leather stock for parade but on other undress and service conditions wore a black neckcloth with the shirt collar points pulled well above over the angle of the chin and the shirt frill pulled out to show at the neck. Some stocks and neckcloths had a small piece of lace attached to show at the collar. For full dress the officers wore a white silk neckcloth.

Shirts

The officers shirts were white cambric. The shoulder seam came well down the arm and the cuffs and the front were decorated with a wide frill which was ironed into pleats. The collars were deep with long points and were usually worn up with the points showing above the neckcloth.

The NCOs and privates' shirts were made of coarse unbleached linen. The frills were 9 inches long and 2 inches deep and were ironed into pleats. The top of the frill was flattened and worn so that the bottom edge of the stock came well over it to prevent it showing at the jacket neck.



The 1812–1816 pattern felt shako, shown in wear in many illustrations in this book. These various aspects show the 'fall' at the back and the oilskin weatherproof cover. Note the white and red cut feather ornament and the coiled pattern cockade. A bugle-horn badge was worn over the shako plate by light infantry companies.

Head-dress

In March 1812 the Foot Guards and the Infantry of the Line were ordered to take into use a 'new pattern regulation infantry cap'. The new cap was to replace the old 'stovepipe' cap which had been worn since 1800. The old pattern cap had been worn by the NCOs and private men only, except in the Light Infantry and Light Infantry Companies of the Foot Guards and the Line Infantry but the new cap was now to be worn by all ranks.

The new pattern head-dress, nowadays known to students of uniform as the 'Waterloo' or 'Belgic' cap, should be more properly attributed to the old Austro-Hungarian infantry 'kasket' or the Portuguese 'barretina' both of which utilised the principle of the high false front.

The cap is described in documents of the time as comprising . . . 'a front, banded with leather and with a front leather poke (peak) and a fall* at the rear and with a metal cap plate on the front with embossed crown and ornament, chain and tassels across the front and a worsted tuft or a feather . . .' The pattern issued to His Majesty's Foot Guards was made of felt for the rank and file, coarse beaver for the sergeants, and fine beaver for the staff sergeants, sergeants major and the officers. The front plate was brass for the rank and file and sergeants and embossed with the 'crown' and 'star'. The officers had similar ornaments but gilded and with enamelled centres.

Shako plate of the 3rd Foot Guards. For NCOs and privates this was all brass with the star embossed. The officer's pattern was gilt with the star finished in silver and gold, with green enamel centre.

* The fall is not shown on every cap and one officer's version examined appears never to have been provided with such an item. It was a rectangular piece of oiled cloth or thin leather stitched on the inside of the back edge of the cap and folded up and tucked over a fine chain or cord suspended from two small hooks sewn into the cap. It could apparently be worn up, or dropped to cover the back of the neck. An example in the National Army Museum has this type of fall.

Shako plate of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards. For NCOs and privates this was all brass with the star embossed. The officers' pattern had a fine granular finish and the Garter Star was silver with white and red enamel, gold trim and lettering.

Above: *Shako plate of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, 1815. This is the officers' pattern described in the adjacent panel and is a preserved specimen (National Army Museum).*

The rank and file had a white cotton worsted chain and tassels across the front. The NCOs had similar ornaments but in a gold cord and the officers a decoration described as a 'gold chain cord and tassels'. Rank and file of the Light Infantry Companies had a green worsted chain and tassels.

The first pattern cap had a metal binding to the front. For the officers the binding was in gold lace and for the sergeants in gilded brass. The Coldstream Regiment appears to have affected a zigzag or 'vandyked' binding, scalloped for the NCOs and the private men. This decoration could not have been to the satisfaction of the powers in the Horse Guards for shortly after issue, in June 1812, orders were issued for the Foot Guards to discontinue wearing the metal and lace binding to the caps. The Guards must have disregarded this order to some extent at least for the Band are reported as wearing the ornament in Paris in 1815.

Modified versions of the officers' caps were trimmed with a black ribbed braid and had a soft leather inner band and were lined with oiled silk. The peaks of the caps are described as either 'patent', 'varnished' or moulded and the 'falls' as 'patent', moulded or stitched. Some caps appear to have adjustable lower bands. French prints of drummers shows a small buckle and slide at the back, likely because their heads were so small.

The feather or tuft decoration was worn on the left side from a small socket behind the black braided cockade. Officers had cut hackle feathers and the rank and file a coarse woollen 'bullrush' shaped tuft. The Foot Guards probably had cut feathers for the senior NCOs also. These ornaments were white for the grenadiers, white with a red root for the Battalion Companies and green for the Light Infantry. The corded cockades had a small regimental button in the centre for the centre companies and a button with a grenade for the grenadiers and a bugle horn for the Light Infantry.

Several specimens of the cap have been examined by the author. The officers' pattern had a fine knap beaver finish and those of the private men a coarse felt. All had leather peaks, rather flat and glazed.

Two caps previously in the RUSI Museum in Whitehall were examined. The garland across the front of one was a chain of gold lace with a crimson silk thread twisted throughout. The feather was thrust in a metal socket in the top of the cap behind the cockade. The other specimen had a thicker white cord chain (not threaded through the loop below the front plate) and had two rather meagre tassels hanging low on the right side. The caps were measured and both gave the following dimensions:

- $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches high at the back.
- $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches high on the sides of the crown.
- 6 inches from the inside of the crown to the inside of the top measured inside.
- $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high from the top edge of the peak to the top of the false front.
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top of the crown to the top of the false front.
- 2 inch-long tassels on the right side pendent from a small hook on the side of the cap near the top edge. One specimen had the tassels hanging 4 inches from the hook, the other 6 inches.

The false front was supported by a strong wire placed along its back edge and covered with a one inch-wide ribbed black braid.

Light Infantry companies of the Regiments of Foot generally had the number of the regiment in Arabic brass numerals on the front of the cap with a small white metal bugle horn above. As this was not possible for the Foot Guards they used the regimental cap plate and must have added a bugle horn either above the crown or below the star ornament in the centre of the plate. It is known that the Coldstream Regiment had a separate small bugle horn above the crown and the 3rd Foot Guards probably followed the same style. A Light Company pattern plate for the 1st Foot

Guards has not been traced but is likely to have followed the same pattern.

The regimental cap plates were as follows:

1st Foot Guards

A Star of the Order of the Garter but with the reversed GR Royal Cypher in the centre (instead of the St George's Cross). The Guards Museum have records of a second pattern with the universal style of large GR cypher with III beneath and without the Star and this style was used by R. Simpkin in several water colours. The Carlton House Catalogue confirms the Star badge and that for the officers it was silver (no doubt with an enamelled centre).

2nd Foot Guards

The Star of the Order of the Garter with the cross of St George in the centre.

3rd Foot Guards

The Star of the Order of the Thistle with the Thistle in the centre.

Officers plates were gilded with a fine granular finish and with the Stars silver-plated and enamelled and the central ornaments in colour. An officer's pattern plate of the 1st Foot Guards has not been traced.

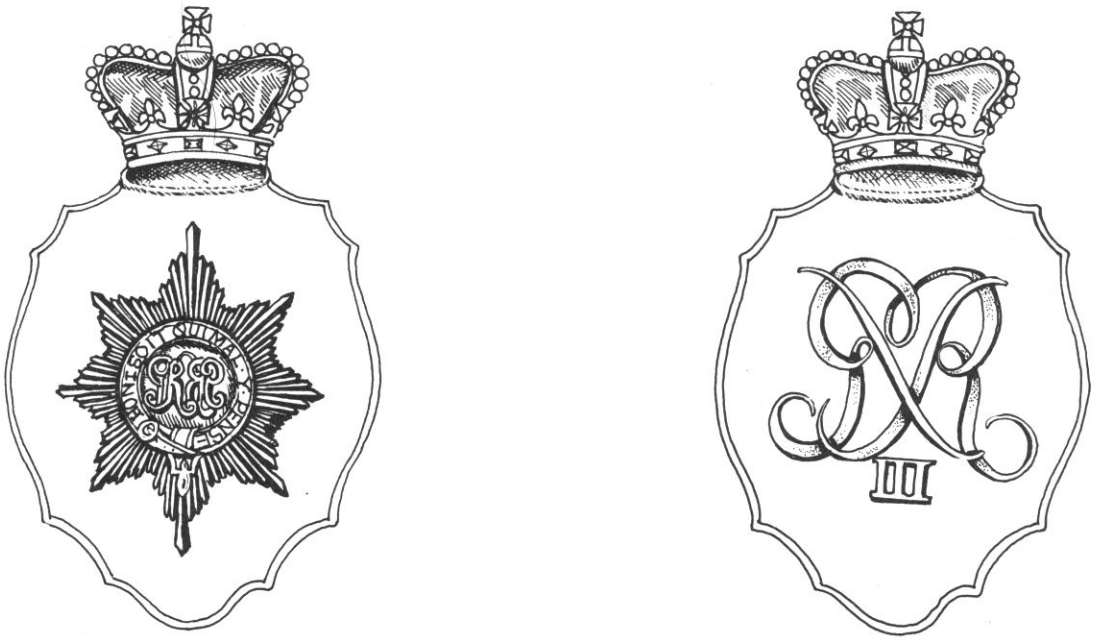
The cap had a waxed or oiled cloth cover for foul weather and for campaigning, and Dighton, Atkinson and Hamilton-Smith show the Foot Guards in this cover. The Jones drawings do not show it. Dighton, who was in Belgium in June 1815, shows the NCOs and privates wearing the cover and the officers without it. The cover had a flap which folded down to protect the neck. When folded up it was tied in front with tapes, Dighton clearly shows this but Hamilton-Smith does not. A Dighton water colour in HM the Queen's collection shows the disposal of the dead outside Hougoumont after the battle. Examination of this painting shows that the escort to a stretcher is a Guardsman (blue wings and white edging to cuffs) and he has such a cover. A sketch by Drummond in 'Wellington and Waterloo' and alleged to be a contemporary drawing shows a Guardsman with his shako in a similar cover.

The Surgeons had gold shako plates and cords and black

Bearskin cap plate of the grenadier company of the Foot Guards, dating from the 1815 period. This is a preserved specimen (National Army Museum).

feathers and the Musicians similar shakos with gold shako cords and either red feathers or red feathers with a white root. The Grenadier Companies wore the bearskin cap for full dress only. They were not carried on campaign and Inspection Reports suggest that there was a deficiency even before Waterloo and when the Regiments were in occupation of Paris. They probably only wore the bearskins for Palace, HQ and quarter guard duty.

The bearskins were only worn by Grenadier officers, NCOs, drummers and privates. The caps were made of black bearskin,



Shako plates of the 1st Foot Guards. The 'star' pattern follows the description in the Carlton House catalogue. For NCOs and privates the plate was all brass. The officers' pattern had a silver star with, probably, a red enamelled centre with gilt cypher. The other plate is from information in the Guards Museum and P. W. Reynolds MSS.

approximately 16 inches high and with the full Royal Arms in brass or gilt on the polished black front plate. By 1815 they had a small flat black leather peak in front. Gold cords and tassels were worn by the Officers and NCOs and white cotton worsted cords and tassels by the privates. The white hair plume was approximately 12 inches high and was worn in a socket behind a brass or gold grenade socket on the left side. Chin scales may not have been added until about 1820. Sauerweid shows a small yellow metal grenade above the front plate and Hamilton-Smith shows a small metal grenade at the rear.

The cocked hat was still popular for officers in undress. By 1815 it had become less exaggerated in size and shape and was no longer the huge crescent moon style which was described by General Mercer. Wellington wore a very low hat fore-and-aft after the Naval fashion. Fashionable for balls and other evening functions this cap could be folded and carried under the arm and was then known as the 'chapeau bras'. Charles Hamilton-Smith has a plate of an Ensign in Full Dress wearing a gold-laced hat in 1812. Regimentally the cap should have had a small gold lace loop, a black silk cockade and a company pattern feather. For off duty occasions both the officers and the rank and file wore simple, soft topped bonnets'* blue with a red band and a top pom-pon in the company colour; white for centre companies,

* These bonnets appear to have differed in pattern from regiment to regiment. Some were 'pork-pie' shaped but others had flat, plate topped shapes or were like stocking night caps, some were like miniature cocked caps worn 'fore and aft' with the two sides pinched up tight (see original water colours of 61st Foot in 1801 in the National Army Museum).

Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards; corporal of the grenadier company in full dress (note black gaiters) wearing the bearskin grenadier cap.

1st Foot Guards; sergeant of grenadier company in full dress in 1810, showing the grenadier bearskin cap in wear. The detail here is from a portrait in the possession of the Guards Museum.

Top Row: *Three aspects of the bearskin cap issued to grenadier companies of Foot Guards regiments and worn only in full dress, despite many popular prints showing this cap worn on campaign.* Bottom Left: *The special version of this cap worn by pioneers in full dress with a crossed axe and saw badge.* Bottom Right: *The fatigue and barrack undress bonnet, in this case the 'pork pie' pattern.*

red for grenadiers and green for the Light Infantry. Officers and NCOs probably had a gold band. The pattern of these caps appears to have varied from regiment to regiment, some having large flat top parts like dinner plates, a kind of forerunner of the Broderick cap, while others had small tops like the pork-pie cap used during the Crimean War.

Shoulder Belt Plates

1st Foot Guards

Officers: A rectangular gilded brass plate with rounded corners decorated with the Regimental badge; the Garter with the Royal Crown above and the GR cypher reversed with III in the centre.

NCOs and private men: The same pattern plate but in brass.

Coldstream Guards

Officers: An oval gilded brass plate with a beaded rim and with a silver plated Star of the Order of the Garter in the centre with an enamelled centre in full colour.

NCOs and private men: The same pattern plate but in brass. It may be that the staff sergeants, colour sergeants and the Sergeant Major had a similar pattern to the officers but this is not clear.

3rd Foot Guards

Officers: An oval gilded brass plate with a plain raised rim and the Star of the Order of the Thistle in the centre in silver plate, gilt and enamels. The gold thistle had four leaves at this period.

NCOs and private men: A similar pattern plate but in brass and slightly smaller. The Thistle in the centre also had four leaves.

Left to Right: *Shoulder belt plate patterns for the 1st Foot Guards, Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, and the 3rd Foot Guards.*

Buttons

Buttons were gilt for all officers and senior NCOs, and pewter for the privates. The following devices were embossed on the badges.

1st Foot Guards: The Royal Cypher within a crowned Garter.

Coldstream Regt: The Star of the Order of the Garter.

3rd Foot Guards: The Star of the Order of the Thistle. On the pewter buttons the Star was stylised and had 3 and G on either side of a Thistle without leaves.

The Knapsack

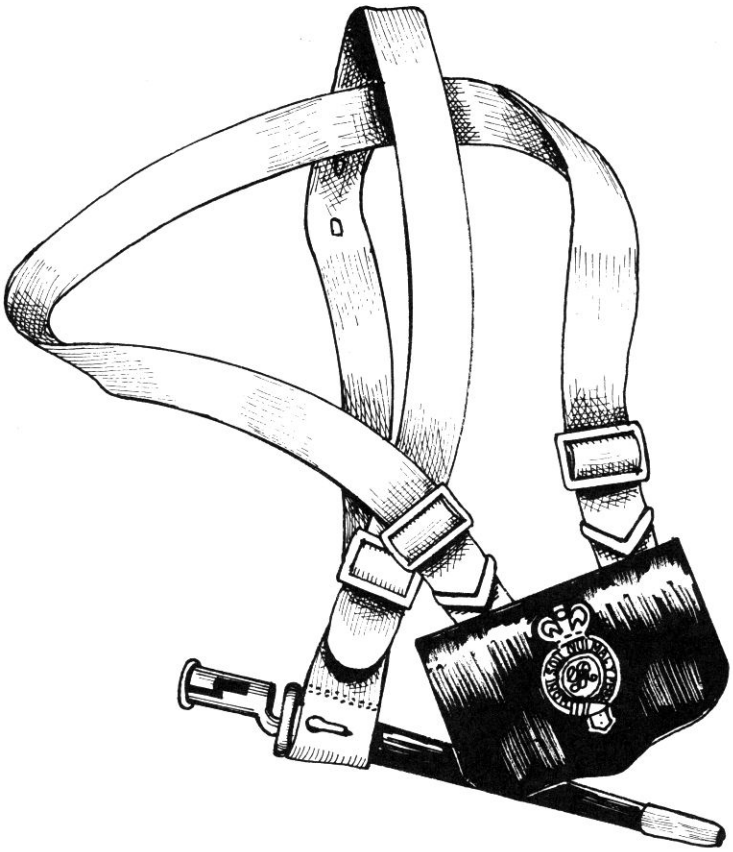
In the early years of the 19th century the British Army knapsack was not of regulation pattern. They were made of canvas, painted, in some cases in the facing colour of the regiment, and with some form of regimental identification on the outer flap. These knapsacks were made in what for convenience we can call an 'envelope style'. They opened out flat, the contents were piled neatly on the inside of the back, the sides were folded over, and probably tied with taped or buckled with straps, the bottom was folded up and the top flap brought over and buckled or tied at the bottom. There are some examples of this knapsack in the National Army Museum, London.

In 1808, in an effort to regularise, and bring some uniformity to the situation, the knapsack was ordered to be painted black with the regimental number on the outside flap. In the Foot Guards the number was to be replaced by the regimental badge. The St Clair drawings of the Peninsular campaign suggests that the knapsack continued to be the soft 'envelope' pattern, but sometime before Waterloo a frame appears to have been introduced and the resulting black, box-type knapsack continued to be worn for the next fifty years with little alteration. However, there is some evidence that the knapsacks carried by the Foot Guards were slightly different. Prints by Atkinson, a pen and ink sketch by the same artist in the Guards Museum, and the French prints post Waterloo show a black, softish knapsack with long flaps on the sides and a buckled strap going either right round it or across the sides. As this strap and the side flaps appear in two different sources it is likely that it was a regimental or brigade pattern. A painting entitled the 'deserter' in the National Army Museum shows a knapsack of this type, which is brown. A Dighton painting of Waterloo shows the Foot Guards with a badge on a blue patch on the flap and with 1FG in yellow beneath.

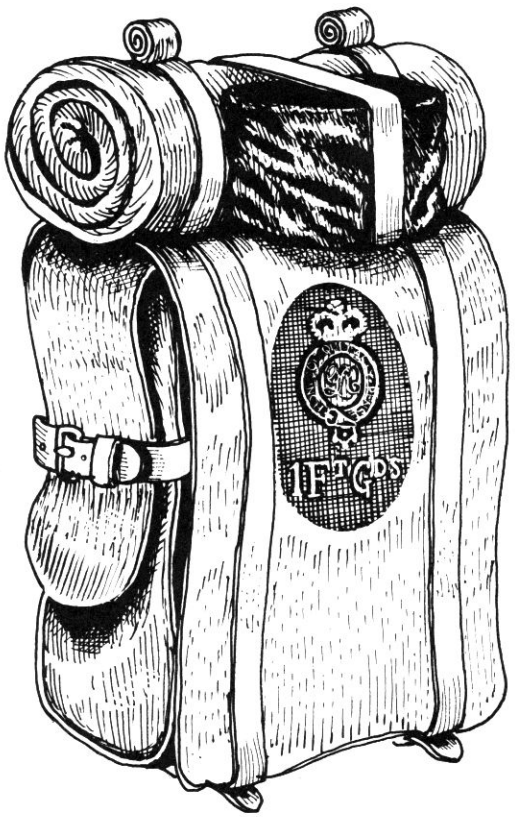
The knapsack and the supporting belts and breast strap weighed approximately 3 pounds. In the knapsack the infantryman carried about 26 pounds in weight including a waistcoat, forage cap (this was in some cases rolled on the cartridge pouch) one spare shirt, one pair shoes, one pair stockings, four brushes, button-stick, comb, heelball, pipe clay, chalk and two tent pegs. Pen, ink and eating utensils were also often carried. If the breeches were worn the trousers could be included. A spare pair of gaiters was also carried on campaign. The overcoat was rolled neatly on top and secured by two straps and a blanket was often folded and worn on the outside of the flap. Selected personnel carried the cooking utensils and canteens, billy cans, etc.

There was always trouble with the knapsacks. At Talavera it was reported that the infantry had more knapsacks painted with Militia badges than regimental numbers, and at one period an Inspecting Officer reported that the Guards knapsacks had been painted with tar instead of turpentine.

Pioneers had special equipment to carry the tools of their trade. The pattern of these knapsacks is not known but they are called 'calfskin'. If it was remarkable enough to say that pioneers' knapsacks were leather the implication is that the remaining men of the companies had knapsacks of some other material – probably painted canvas as previously stated.

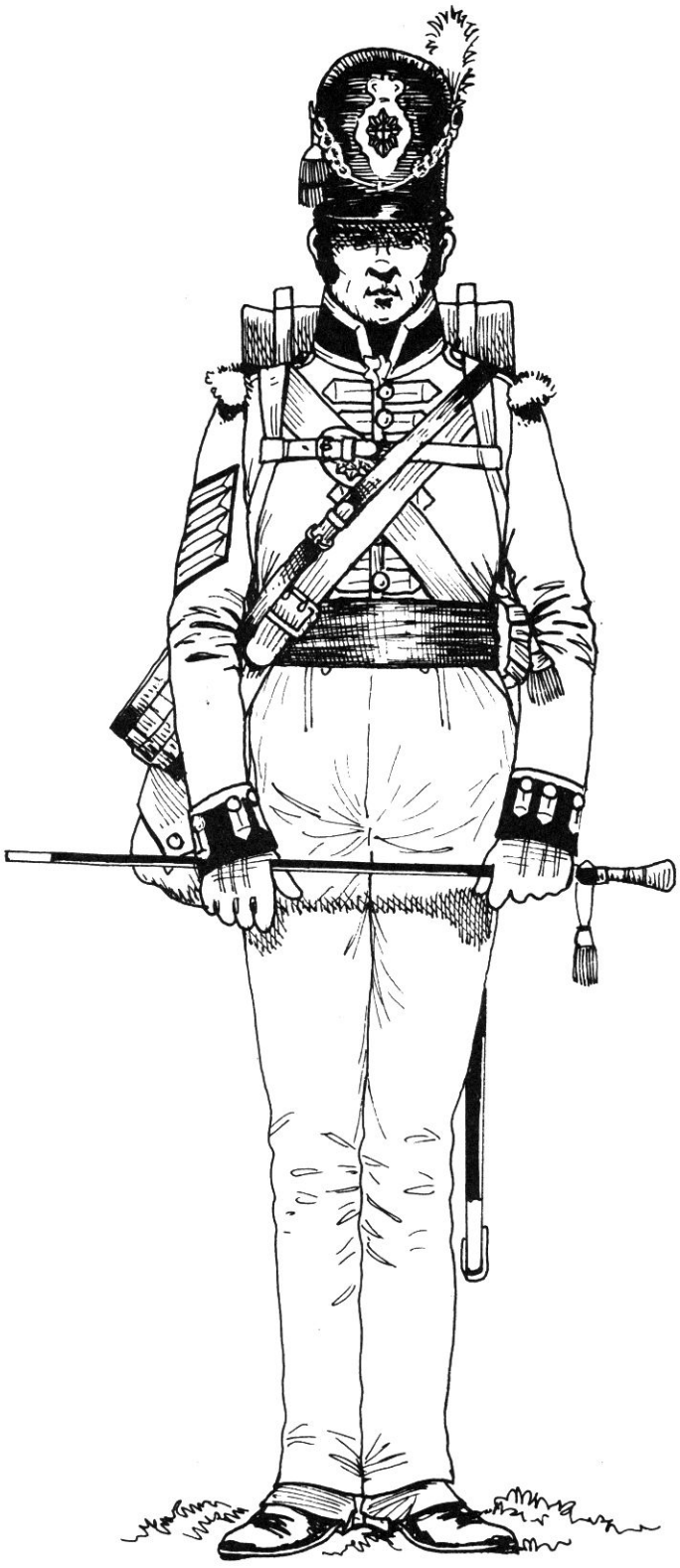


The pouch and bayonet belts were worn over the left and right shoulders respectively, the shoulder belt plate placed on the breast where they crossed. The bayonet belt went over the pouch belt. The breast plate was worn on the bayonet belt.

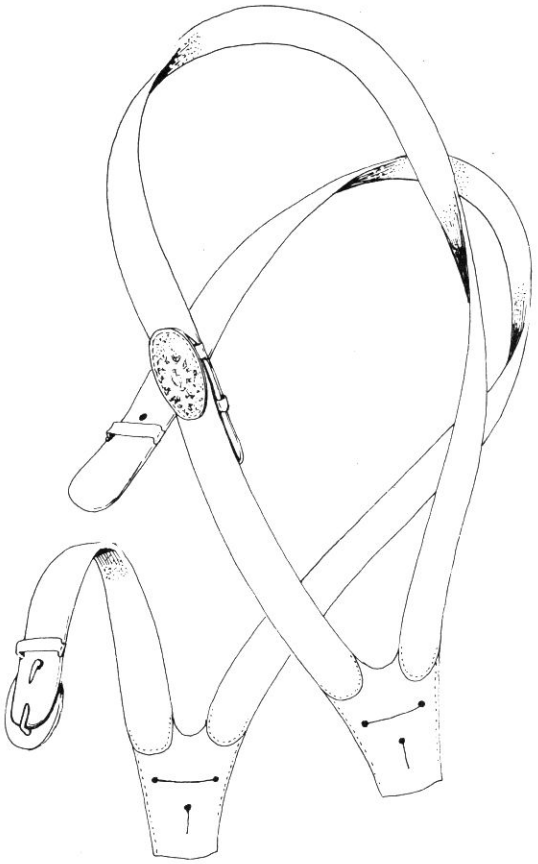


The knapsack of the type carried by the Foot Guards in 1815. The rolled overcoat or blanket and a mess tin in oilskin cover are strapped on top. The regimental title on the blue patch is a detail taken from Dighton paintings. The mess tin was carried in different positions, a typical arrangement being shown.

1st Foot Guards; sergeant and private man in marching order, winter campaign dress. This famous Hamilton-Smith print of 1812 shows the men in greatcoats and with the flap of the oilskin shako cover dropped to protect the neck. Note variation in the way of carrying the personal equipment and the oilskin cover over the woollen tufts. The water canteens appear to be a special pattern (National Army Museum).



Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards; sergeant major in service dress. This view shows the breast-strap which linked the two knapsack straps. As the sergeant major is armed only with the sword, he wears equipment in a different order to the men. A haversack is worn instead of a pouch belt and the water canteen is carried on the right.



The officers' shoulder belt, showing method of fastening the shoulder belt plate.

Cartridge Pouch

Black leather, and for the Foot Guards fitted with two short straps and buckles. The lid of the pouch was decorated with a brass stamped badge, Crown and Garter for the 1st, Garter Star for the Coldstreams and the Thistle Star for the 3rd. The cartridge box carried 36 rounds in a wooden frame split into small rectangular sections. The pouch flap was rounded at the corners and had, attached to the inside of the lid a small leather pocket for the spare flints and the turnscrew. A further 24 rounds are stated to have been carried in a 'magazine'; 'a tin case covered in black leather with buff belts and buckles'.

Shoulder Belts

Generally the infantry belts were to be $2\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide fastened to the cartridge pouch by buckles and to 'admit of being shortened and lengthened'. The regimental plate was normally on the bayonet belt and placed where the two belts crossed on the breast. On the bayonet belt were to be two 'Ds' to which the 'magazine' could be attached. The belts of the Foot Guards are said to have been different to the Line Infantry in that the pouch belt was $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide and the bayonet belt $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. These widths were confirmed by an Inspecting Officer's report which states that he was not pleased with the appearance of these 'wide and narrow' belts. Besides the aforementioned buckles attached to and behind the cartridge pouch, the Foot Guards had two additional brass rectangular buckles and brass tips on the pouch belt which gave their belting quite a distinctive appearance. These buckles sat about 6 inches above the pouches and are not shown on many prints of Infantry of the Line of the period. A report

states that the 'magazines' were only carried on the march when the regiment was on active service, but no print has been traced to show how they looked or where they were carried.

Officers' shoulder belts were used to sling the sword or pistol holster and were secured with a tongue and pin type buckle which was concealed by the shoulder belt plate. The lower end of the belt was fashioned to give a roughly triangular leather gusset which was pierced to take sword or holster slings.

Waistbelt

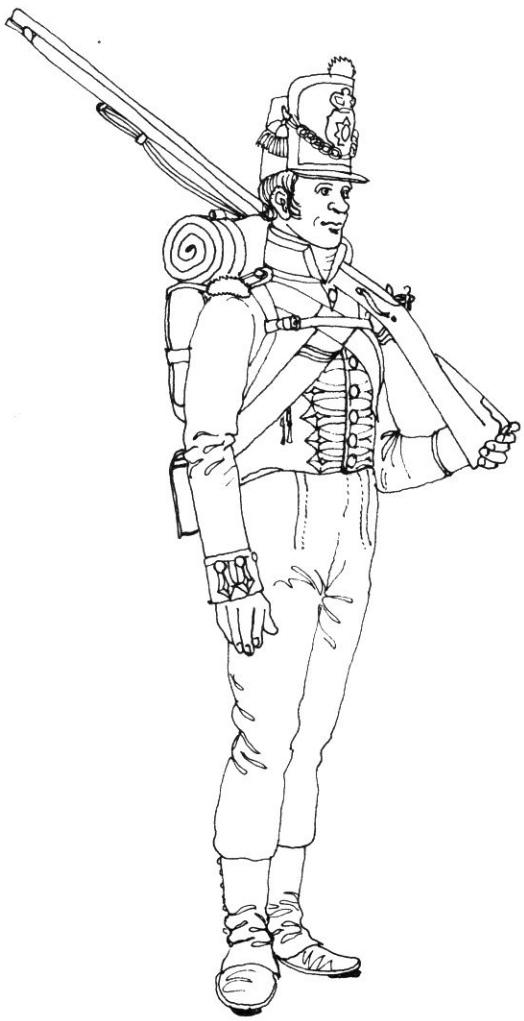
This did not form part of the infantryman's usual kit but is shown on several of the French prints of the period and on prints of many Volunteer and Militia Regts. It seems likely that something of the sort would have to have been worn on active service, otherwise the pouch would have been continually sliding around to the front and the canteen banging on the thigh.

Pricker and Brush

These two important pre-requisites of ensuring the minimum of misfires were carried on two leather laces from a breast button of the jacket or from the back of the cross belt plate. Some prints show the pricker and brush on chains.

Whistles

Officers and Senior NCOs of the Light Companies of all Regiments of Foot Guards carried brass whistles linked to an upper ornament on the front of the sword belt. There was, of



The basic method of wearing marching order is well shown in this sketch of a private of 1st Foot Guards, based on the W. Aerts copy of a Cremer drawing.

Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards; grenadier in service dress. This front view shows clearly the way of wearing full marching order. Compare with sergeant major on opposite page.

course, a practical use for the whistle when carrying out scouting or skirmishing work. Whistle signals were used to pass orders.

The Officers' Canteen

Two types were carried, either the standard pattern also carried by the NCOs and private men or privately purchased types. These latter would probably have been glass water bottles covered with leather and with a drinking cup slipped on to form a cover and would have appeared very much like a modern drinking flask carried on brown straps.

NCOs and Privates' Canteen

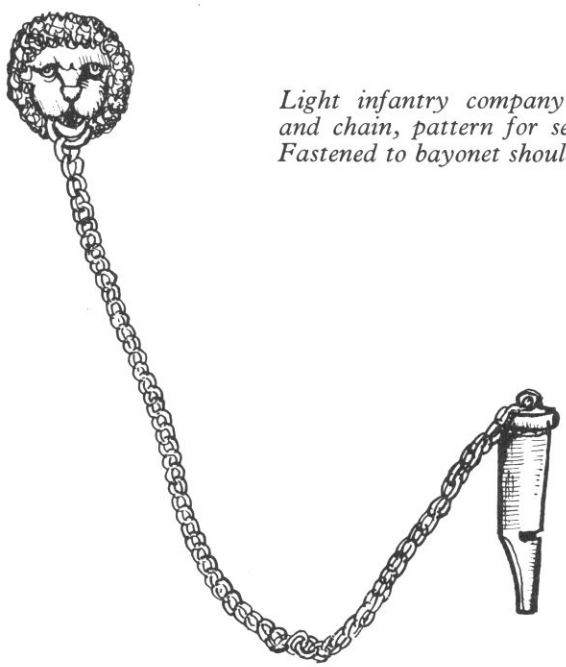
The British canteen was a small wooden barrel bound with iron hoops and painted blue. It weighed around 3 pounds and was carried on the left hip with a supporting strap through small metal keepers set on the body of the canteen. It had a metal neck and a cork secured to the canteen by a cord. The outside face of the canteen was either burnt, painted or chiselled with some kind of regimental identification. There is one example in the Rotunda at Woolwich and another in the Guards Museum. The Guards example has been cut with a knife or chisel very roughly and the Artillery type has been painted. It was usual to have the broad 'Ordnance' arrow and identification such as '1FG, 4th. Cy. No. 25'. In the Museum at Celle, Hanover, Germany the canteen of the Kings German Legion is painted with a similar type of device. Hamilton-Smith shows the Guards carrying a more refined type of canteen but its precise design is not clear. It may have been meant for a leather flask as carried by American troops.

Haversacks

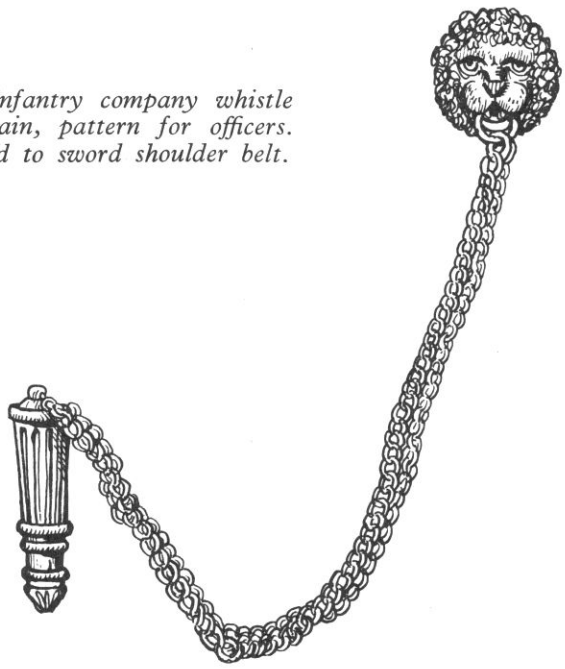
By 1815 British infantry were carrying their rations in a rectangular canvas bag or sack on the left hip. It was suspended on a wide belt over the shoulder and adjusted by a slide or buckle. The flap was fastened with two buttons. Hamilton-Smith's plate shows the Guards with black haversacks and this oddity is copied by Knötel in his 'Uniformenkunde' plate.

On the march three days bread or biscuit, two days salt beef or pork, and fruit was carried.

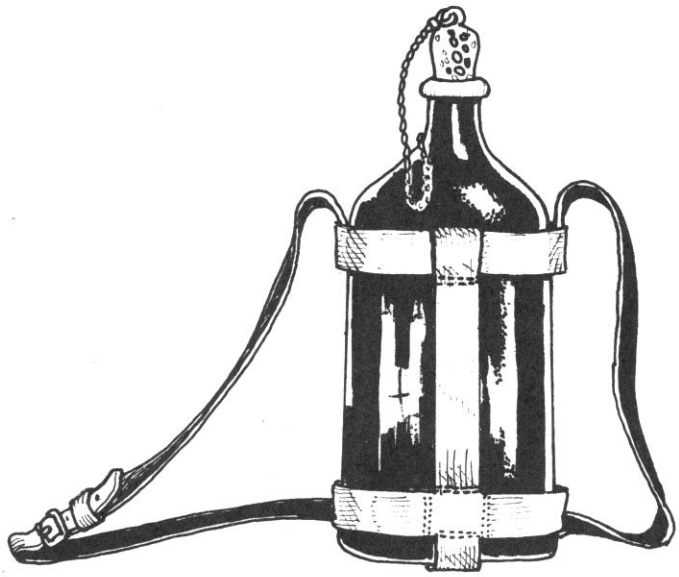
Right: *Preserved example of an other ranks' pouch badge of 1815. This is the 1st Foot Guards' pattern and is cast in brass (National Army Museum).*



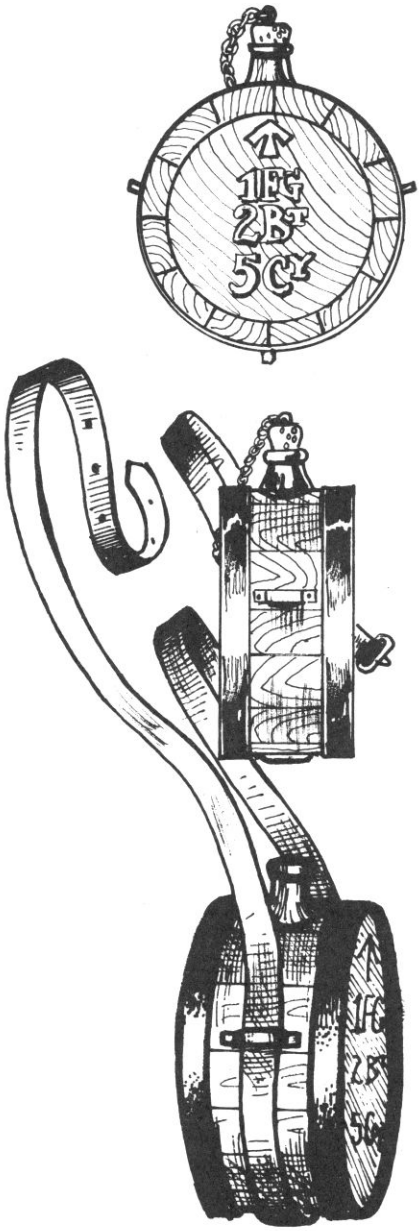
Light infantry company whistle and chain, pattern for sergeants. Fastened to bayonet shoulder belt.



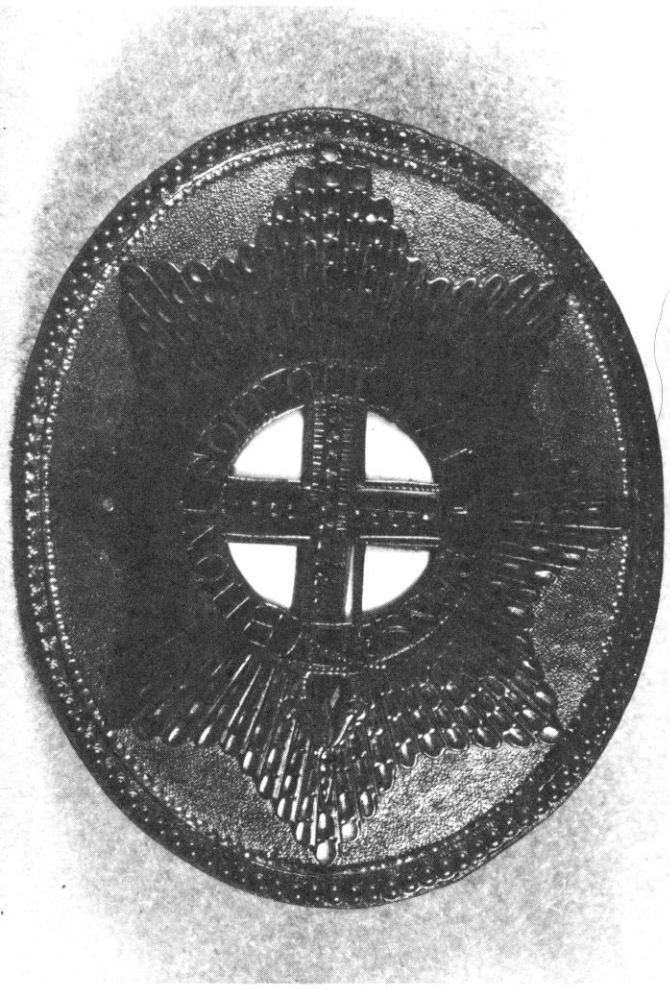
Light infantry company whistle and chain, pattern for officers. Fastened to sword shoulder belt.



Water canteens for officers varied considerably. Some used the other ranks' pattern but most provided a bottle or canteen from outside sources. A very typical type was the water bottle in a leather or canvas cradle, as shown here, which is shown in several contemporary prints.



Water canteen for other ranks. The wooden barrel was painted bright blue and had a white painted identification in abbreviated form. As an alternative the identity lettering could be burned or chiselled into the wood, often picked out with paint as well. The style of abbreviation could vary and examples can be seen in many other illustrations in this work. Front, side, and general views are shown here.



Left: *Shoulder belt plate, officers' pattern, of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, dating from 1815 (National Army Museum).*

Musicians of the Foot Guards bands in state clothing, as recorded circa 1820. In the original references from which the above details are taken, the drum major is shown in the same style of clothing but his coat is a full skirted frock, very similar in shape to the frock 'state coat' worn by Foot Guards drum majors at the present time. The small illustrations inset to the right shows negro bandsmen in oriental style dress with tambourine and triangle. The coatee is red with blue facings on the collar and elaborate gold lace. The breeches, also laced in gold in the case of the tambourinist, were white as were the gaiters. The turban is white with scarlet centre, red and white plume, and gold lace.

BANDS AND CORPS OF DRUMS

Regimental Bands of Music

The musicians of the three regiments of Foot Guards were provided with two types of dress, State Clothing and Regimental Dress. A list of the cost of State clothing for 1815 confirms plain jockey caps, gold laced coats, buff waist belts and swords.

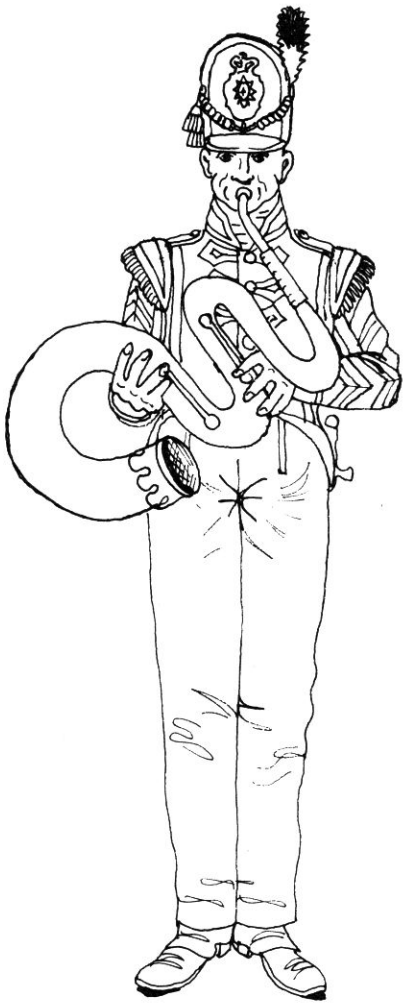
The Bands did not accompany the Foot Guards on the Waterloo Campaign but are known to have been in Paris during the occupation. The French artists of the period show several Bandsmen in their plates of British infantry. The 1st Foot Guards are shown in several prints and there are Cremer drawings of the Foot Guards. There are also prints of the negro janissary musicians who appear to have caused quite a sensation in Paris. Wynant Aerts the Belgian military artist shows several figures from the Cremer Collection.

The bandsmen are generally shown as dressed in red with blue facings and have blue wings. All the lace on the coats appears to be gold and the wings are decorated similarly and with gold fringe. The usual leg garments are white breeches and black knee length gaiters although one print shows a Drum Major in dark blue trousers with silver or white stripes.

An interesting point is that several of the Drum Majors and the Bandsmen are shown in the high fronted caps with the front part decorated with an edging of brass or gold lace in a vandyked or scalloped design. One has the peak folded up.

The Drum Majors had blue sashes edged with gold and with black drum sticks in gold or black keepers on the front. Their jackets were decorated with six or seven chevrons of gold lace (points up) on the sleeves and had either blue wings or gold epaulettes. In one drawing the Drum Major appears to have an aigullette on the right shoulder and the 3rd Foot Guards Drum Major a strange plate on the front of his cap which resembles a trophy of drums, flags and trumpets.

The negroes are all dressed in a quasi-oriental fashion with either scarlet waistcoats over short vests or jackets with decorated waistcoats beneath. The negroes apparently carried drums, cymbals, tambourines and triangles and are said to have 'leapt about' and 'danced' on the march.



Musician of 1st Foot Guards, based on detail taken from a drawing by Cremer. He is in service dress as would be worn for everyday duties and playing on the march. Musicians carried a short sword and contemporary drawings indicate this. The instrument being played here is a serpent.

Drummers, Fifers and Buglers

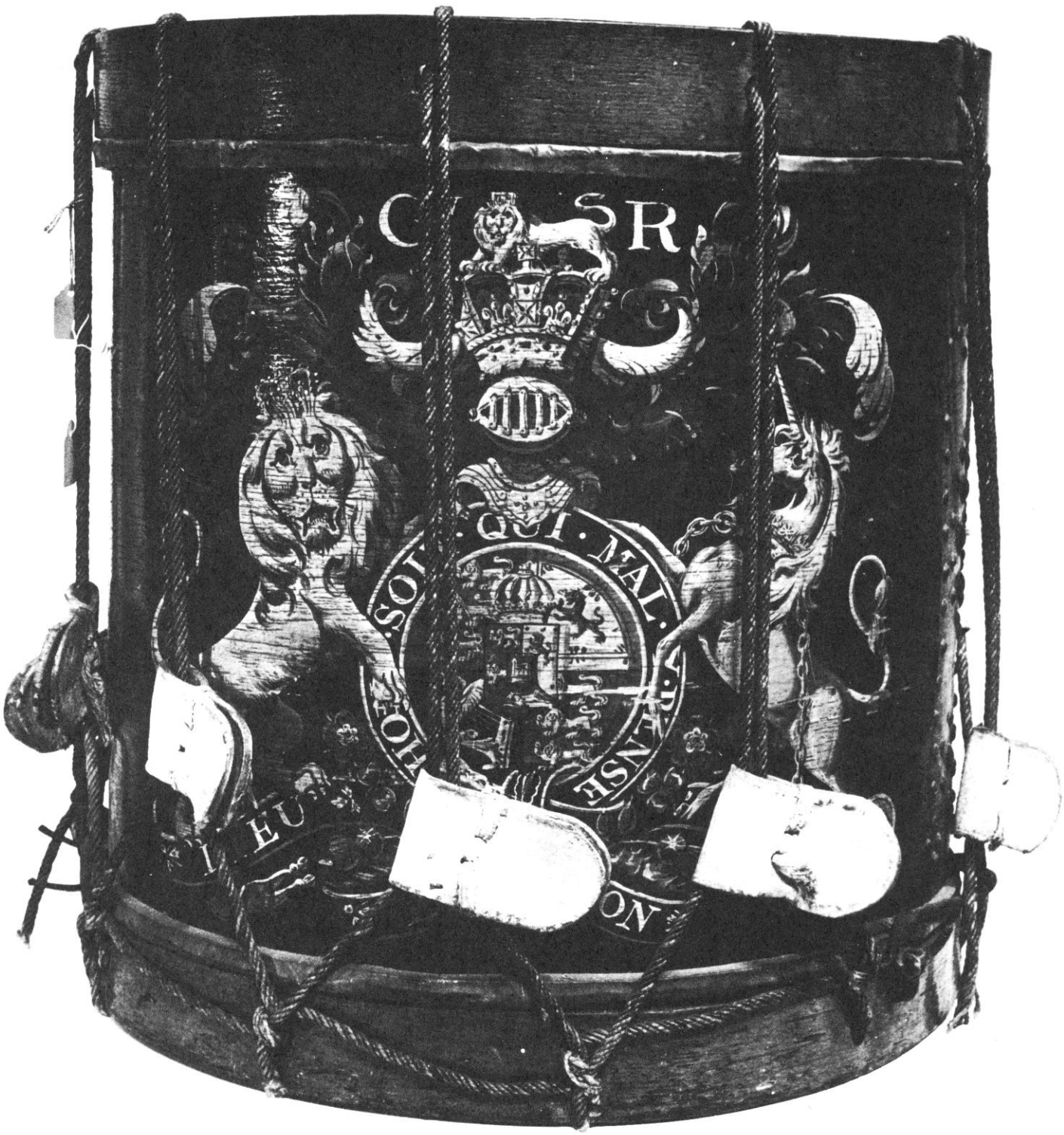
No print or painting of the period has been traced which gives an accurate picture of the pattern of clothing worn. It can be assumed that the jackets were red with blue facings as befitted a Royal Regiment and that the lace was white worsted with blue 'fleur de lys' design although this has only been traced directly to the Coldstream Regiment. If we accept that the coats would have been reasonably similar to earlier and later coats the following description could apply: 'Drummers coats as men, short skirted and lined throughout. The front skirts turned back and faced as linings and the edges feathered blue under the lace. Both fronts of the coat looped with lace and ten buttons (or less in proportion when the wearer was a small boy), set on one side with holes and the other with buttons. The cuffs, collar, wings and shoulder straps of the Foot Guards to be dark blue. The pockets and the buttons to be set on the coat according to the regimental pattern, and when the size of the boys will permit, of the same number. The seams of the coat to be laced but the bars of lace on the sleeves to be at the option of the Colonel. The Drummers of the Foot Guards to have three rows of lace (double) down each front of the Coat and two rows of lace (single) down the back between the rows of lace on the seams. The fronts of the coats to be edged with lace (besides the loopings) as also are the skirts and the pocket flaps. The wings of the Drummers to have darts of white silk lace and the collars laced all round with the same sort of lace besides which they are to have (the wings and the collar) a white silk fringe. The whole of the remainder of the lace on the coats of the Drummers of the Foot Guards to be Royal Lace and consist of blue and white or blue and white and yellow worsted considerably raised above the common lace. The lace of the Coldstream Regiment to be white with blue 'flower de luce' (sic).'

All the above is a contemporary description of drummer's coats of the period some time before Waterloo but if the language of the period is pared down the result would be reasonably similar to the laced aspect of the present day Drummers tunic.

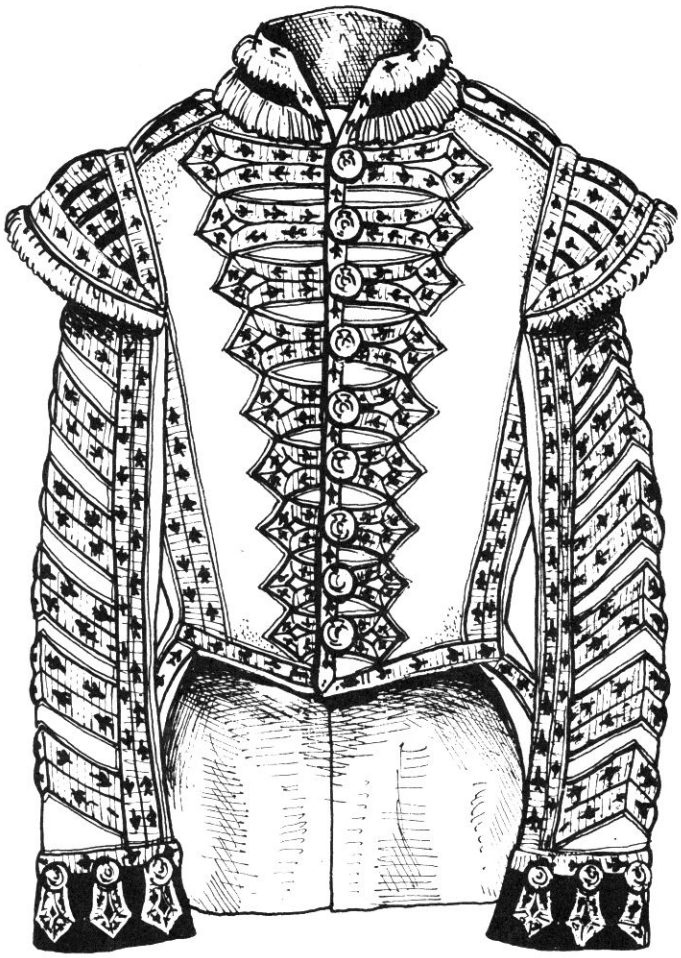
Fifers and the Buglers of the Light Infantry company would have worn the same coat. Bugle cords were probably green and fife cases either brass or whitened leather.

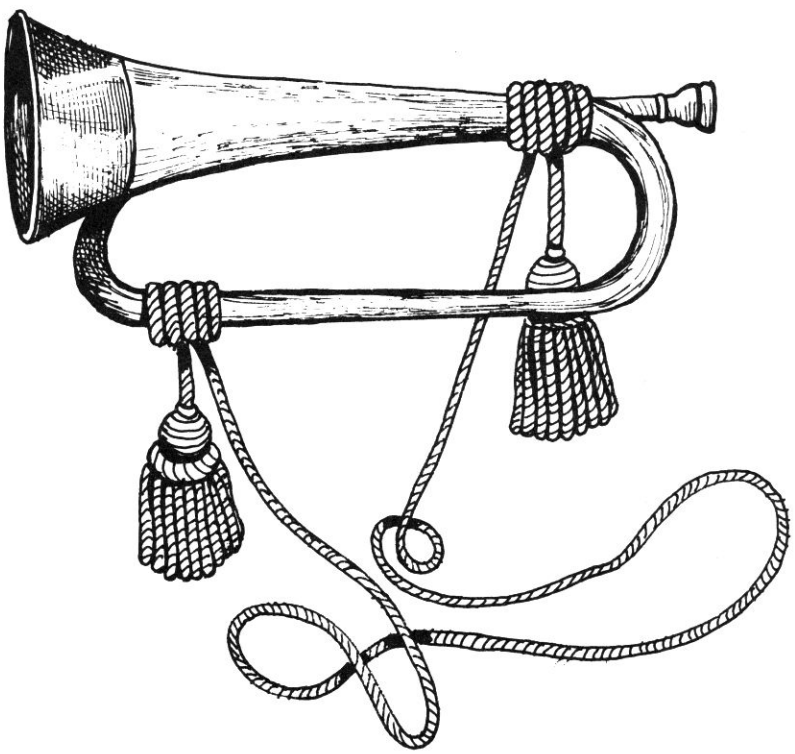
3rd Foot Guards, drum major. This drawing is based on details from contemporary descriptions and drawings by Cremer and Wynant Aerts. Some apparent anomalies are disclosed, in particular the vandyking on the false front cap lace which should have been discarded by 1815 and the badge in the form of a trophy of drums and trumpets. The vandyke decoration on the cap had been in vogue for a short time when the shako was first introduced but no explanation can be found for the unusual badge. It could be artists' licence or it could possibly be a regimental idea purely for the drum major alone or for all the corps of drums. Colonels and officers of regiments often took a personal interest in the bands and special items were furnished or adopted from personal finance.

1st Foot Guards, drum major. The detail here is based on a Cremer drawing and the uniform and appointments accord more with what might be expected from a reading of the dress regulations. The detail of the sash, with drumsticks is well shown. This man is in service dress for everyday wear, with grey trousers and gaiters. The drum major shown opposite is in full dress with white breeches and black gaiters.



A superb preserved specimen of a drum of the 1st Foot Guards which was in use circa 1815. The colour is dark blue with the royal coat of arms painted in natural colours. The lettering partly obscured by the ropes is the legend G^IV R. The colour plate on page 57 shows this instrument in colour with a drummer of the 1815 period (National Army Museum).





Above: *Drummer's jacket, 1st Foot Guards. This is a reconstruction based on written data, contemporary prints, and sketches by Atkinson. See colour plate page 57 for an impression of this in colour.* Above, Right: *Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, bugler of the Light Company in service dress. The short band sword is worn, suspended from the shoulder belt. Knapsack and chest straps are worn in the usual way.* Right: *The light infantry company had buglers instead of drummers. This is the standard pattern bugle of 1815. The cords were dark green.*

ERRATA

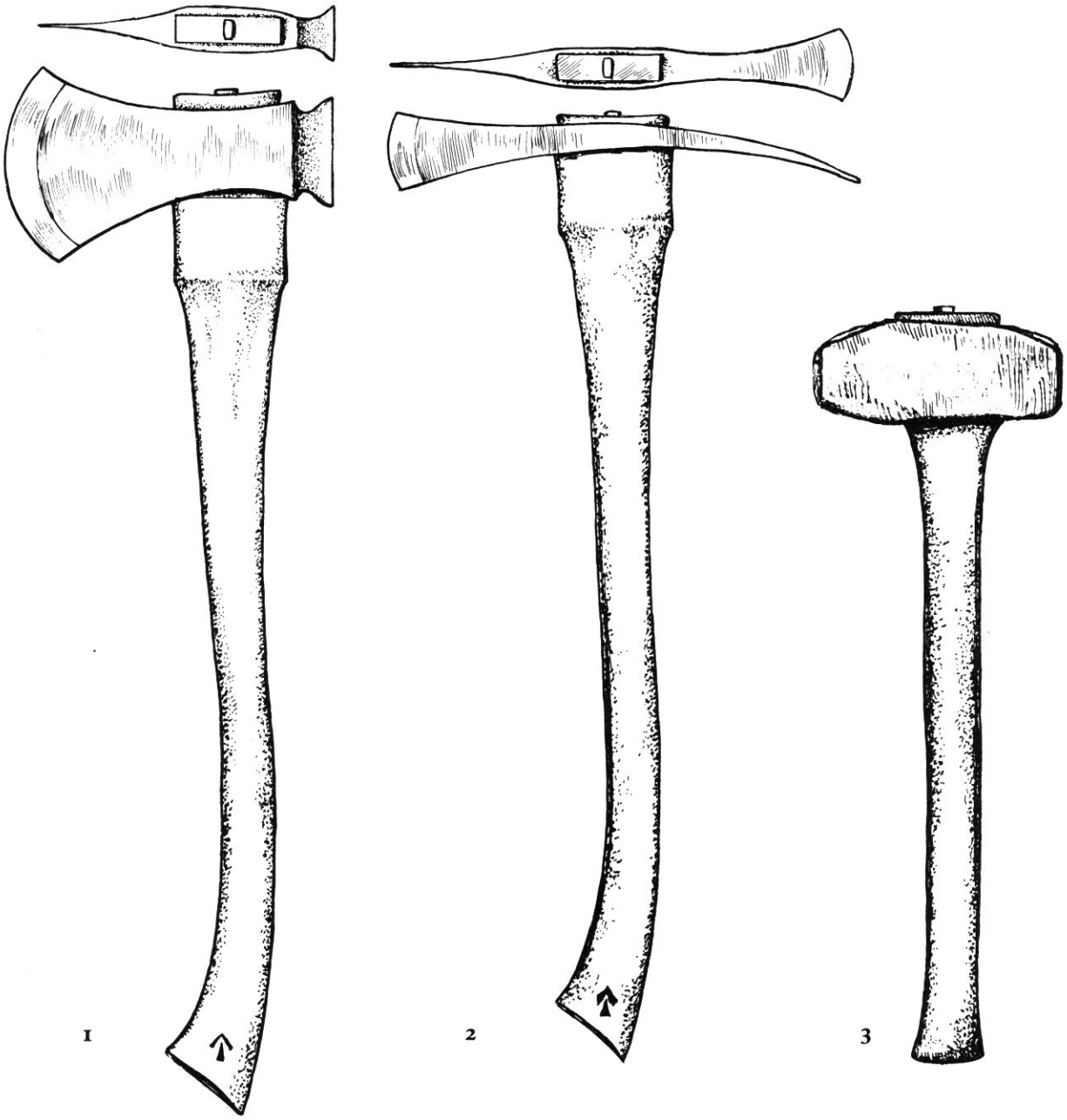
The colour plate at the start of this section shows a Drummer of the 1st Foot Guards in service dress in 1815 wearing the oilskin cover on the shako and the heavily laced jacket worn by the drummers and fifers. The button-holes were spaced according to the regiment. Note the blue painted drum shell with the Royal Arms and the musicians' pattern sword.

The caption given with the colour plate is incorrect in describing the jacket as having 'reversed facing'.

THE PIONEER SECTION

Each British infantry battalion, Foot Guards included, detailed off a pioneer section of ten men under the command of a corporal or a sergeant. In the Guards a corporal headed the section. The pioneers' task was to undertake or supervise construction work, to facilitate setting up defence positions, bridge building, and other heavy manual work which necessitated a skilled knowledge of tools and materials. At the Battle of Waterloo the Pioneers of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, as described in Part I, were instrumental in fortifying Hougoumont Chateau with loopholes and firing platforms, a typical example of their value to an infantry battalion on campaign. The men of the pioneer section were usually former artizans, skilled with tools and of great strength. By tradition they were bearded, the only soldiers allowed to be unshaven.

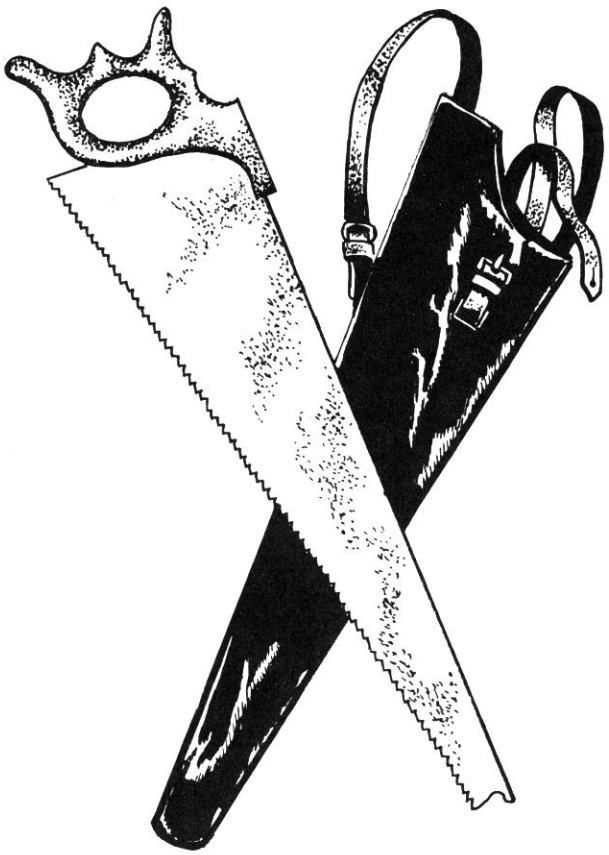
Right: *1st Foot Guards. Private of the Pioneer Section in marching order with full equipment. In full dress pioneers wore the bearskin hat shown on page 67.*



(1) Pioneers' Axe
A labourer's axe of the early 19th century from the Nottingham Castle Collection. The pioneers must have carried a similar tool and the example shown in the Dubois Drahonet painting is very similar.

(2) Pioneers' Mattock
This tool was similar to a pick-axe but had two broad blades set in different planes. Generally the blades took the form of an axe-like edge on one end and a chisel edge on the other. The mattock was used to loosen earth, grub out roots and rocks or loosen brickwork. The chisel end curved slightly inwards to facilitate turning up earth while the axe end which was formed practically at right angles to the helve made the tool extremely effective for cutting through tough obstructions.

(3) Club Hammer
Note that the hammer shaft was straight.



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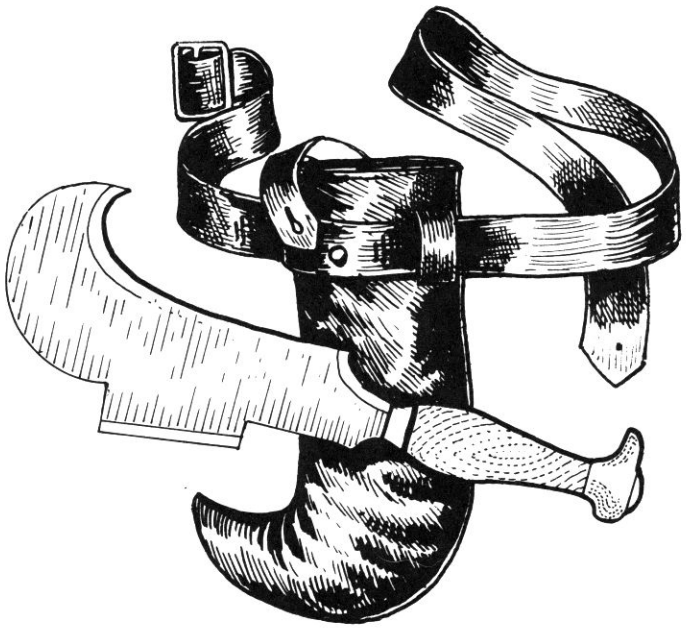
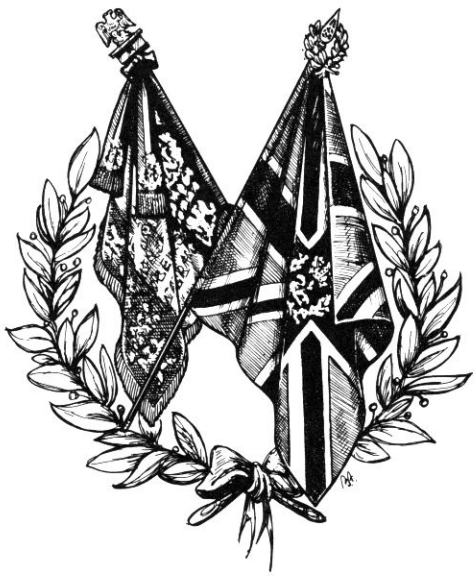


2

(1) The Pioneers' Saw and Case
This drawing has been taken from a painting by Dubois Drahonet of some thirty years after Waterloo but clearly shows a very functional type of arrangement by which the saw, pick-axe or mattock could be carried on the back. The same (or a similar) pattern saw was in use by pioneers in 1815.
(2) Pioneers' Billhook
This traditional British tool was used to sharpen stakes, trim timber for firing platforms, gabions, etc, and to cut through thick hedges and scrub woodland. A longer handled type was also available for clearing ditches and dykes.



Top Right: Shako cord distinctions in order from top to bottom: Officer, First Foot Guards. Sergeant, Coldstream Guards. Private Man, Third Foot Guards. Private Man, Light Infantry Companies of all three regiments with (inset) cockade of Grenadier Companies.

Above, Left: Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, Pioneer Corporal in Service Dress, 1815, wears the campaign cover over the shako, leather apron and grey gaiters. Right: Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, Lieutenant in Ball Dress, 1815. He wears the Full Dress frock coat with white silk neck cloth, white breeches and gloves, silk stockings and buckled shoes.

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